New Course Request

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit [ ] Graduate credit [X] Professional credit [ ]

1. School/Division: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
2. Academic Subject Code: LBST
3. Course Number: D512 (must be cleared with University Registrar)
4. Instructor: [ ] FACULTY
5. Course Title: Social Science Elective
6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Fall 05
7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from ___ to ___
8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes No
9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes No
10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication:
    Prerequisites: LBST D510
    MLS graduate elective course in the Social Sciences. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit.
11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at _3 hrs/wk_ or Variable from ___ to ___
12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at ___ or Variable from ___ to ___
13. Estimated enrollment: 7-10 of which 100% percent are expected to be graduate students.
14. Frequency of scheduling: every semester. Will this course be required for majors? Yes
15. Justification for new course: To provide MLS students with graduate elective options.
16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes
17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.
18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.
19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: ____________________________ Date 9/1/94
Department Chairman/Division Director

Approved by: ____________________________ Date 11/3/94
Dean

________________________ Date
Dean of Graduate School (when required)

________________________ Date
Chancellor/Vice-President

________________________ Date
University Registrar

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to the University Registrar for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

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Revised March, 1997

University Registrar Final Copy
The following syllabus is a sample of one way this course could be taught. It has been especially designed for graduate students. All graduate students taking this course will be assigned to read each of the required books in its entirety. In addition, graduate students will be expected to write a major research paper. If offered in conjunction with an undergraduate section, the undergraduates will only be required to read selected excerpts from the assigned texts. Undergraduate also will not be required to write a research paper.
The old epistemology that equated human beliefs with cosmic reality is now a minority report. Ancient and not-so-ancient systems of eternal truth lie in ruins everywhere around us. The mainstream of social reality has shifted. Yet, although this news is out and many people are acting on it, the full import of the change has not quite found its way into public consciousness.

We can see, if we look closely at the ideas and events of the postmodern world, a new sensibility emerging—a way of being that puts the continual creation of reality at the heart of every person's life, at the heart of politics, and at the heart of human evolution.

-Walter Truett Anderson

REQUIRED BOOKS

Postmortem for a Postmodernist - Arthur Asa Berger
Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison - Michel Foucault
The Postmodern Condition - Jean-Francois Lyotard
Simulation and Simulacrum - Jean Baudrillard
Society of the Spectacle - Guy Debord

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class members should come to each session prepared to engage in discussion. A thorough reading of each assignment, prior to class, is expected. Since this course is a seminar, your attendance and active participation is crucial. Excessive absence may result in a reduction of grade.

2. Each class member is required to write a three page response paper for each week's reading assignment. These responses should be completed before the class in which the reading is to be discussed. Less formal than a term paper, a response paper is an opportunity for you to summarize the reading in your own words, identifying as best you can the major point(s) being made and issue(s) being raised by the author. This assignment is intended to give you an opportunity to summarize and reflect upon the readings in preparation for our seminar sessions. The response papers will be reviewed twice during the course and will contribute 30% of the final grade.

3. Each member of the class will be required to write a 15-20 page paper which offers a brief survey of the impact postmodernism has had on some major area such as architecture, law, science, the arts, music, ethics, sociology, etc. These papers will undergo several drafts and incorporate peer and professorial reviews. A minimum of
ten sources will be required. The paper must be double-spaced, fully documented and employ a format outlined by one of the major disciplines, i.e. ASA, APA, MLA. The paper will constitute 40% of the final grade.

4. There will be a mid-term and a final exam which together will contribute 30% of the final grade.

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

I. Detecting Postmodernism: Berger
II. Surveillance Society: Foucault
III. The Computerization and Digitalization of Society: Lyotard
IV. Simulation and Simulacrum: Baudrillard
V. Beyond Eurocentrism and Multiculturalism: Cornell West
VI. The Society of the Spectacle - DeBord

If you have any questions or troubles with the readings, logbook, or paper, or just want to kick around some ideas you are working with, please come see me anytime.
D512 Society in the New Millennium
Selected List of Texts

This list represents a fairly good introduction to the literature on postmodernism which we will be using in this course. For the assigned texts and topics we will focus on Foucault, Lyotard, Baudrillard, West, and Debord. The other texts may be of use as secondary sources for you paper.


__. 1987. *Forget Foucault.* New York: Semiotext(e).*


__. Debord, Guy. Comments on the Society of the Spectacle.


